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ACTION EAP-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO AMEMBASSY RIYADH IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8252
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
CJCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PARM, PREL, CBW, PHSA, ETTC, IR, CH
SUBJECT: CHINESE PLANNED AUGUST 25 ARRIVAL IN RIYADH
FOR "YIN HE" INSPECTION

REF: A. RIYADH 5934; B. STATE 256642

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. LATE ON AUGUST 23, CHINESE MFA INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT DEPUTY DIRECTOR SHA ZUKANG,
WHO WILL LEAD THE CHINESE TEAM OBSERVING THE SAUDI-LED
INSPECTION OF THE "YIN HE" CARGO, CONFIRMED THAT THE
CHINESE TEAM WILL BE FLYING FROM BEIJING AT ABOUT NOON
LOCAL TIME ON AUGUST 24, ARRIVING THAT EVENING IN

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DUBAI. HE DID NOT PROVIDE FLIGHT INFORMATION, BUT SAID IT WAS THE EARLIEST FLIGHT AVAILABLE TO HIM AND THE CHINESE TEAM. THE TEAM WILL OVERNIGHT IN DUBAI ON AUGUST 24 AND PLANS (PENDING AVAILABILITY OF TICKETS WHICH IT HAS REQUESTED VIA THE CHINESE EMBASSY IN THE UAE) TO FLY TO RIYADH ON AUGUST 25, ARRIVING IN THE EARLY EVENING.

3. SHA SAID THE CHINESE TEAM HAS NOW BEEN EXPANDED TO EIGHT MEMBERS, BUT HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE NAMES TO US. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT MOST OF THE TEAM MEMBERS ARE UNKNOWN TO HIM, INDICATING THEY COME FROM NON-MFA BUREAUCRACIES.

4. EARLIER, WHEN WE PASSED SHA REF B CLARIFICATIONS
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ON POINTS OUR CHARGE IN RIYADH WOULD RAISE IN A JOINT U.S.-CHINESE DEMARCHE, HE WAS CLEARLY PLEASED THAT WE HAD TAKEN SEVERAL CHINESE SUGGESTIONS ON BOARD. ROY

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL